

17 February 2016

**By email**

**By post**

Dear [REDACTED]

**Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOI Act")**

I refer to your letter of 19 January 2016 in which you requested information under the FOI Act.

**Your request**

You made the following request:

*"Please comply with the following requests;*

- 1. For the last full financial year for which you have records (assumed to be the year 2104/15) please confirm the total NHS spend in England & Wales on temporary staffing services (agencies) but restricted to Registered Nurses (all grades) and Health Care Assistants only.*
- 2. For the same year and for the same grades of temporary staff please confirm the proportion of spend with the top 5 providers by value (either by percentage of total quantum).*
- 3. In relation to FOI request 1. please confirm your assessment of how much it would have cost the NHS in England & Wales to have undertaken the work done by temporary staffing services (agencies) had the work been undertaken by the NHS's own substantive staff \*(regular employees).*
- 4. In relation to FOI request 2. please clarify what account has been taken of additional benefits enjoyed by NHS substantive (regular) employees, such as*

*pensions, holiday entitlement, sick pay, lodging allowance, NHS discount card etc.*

*Thank you for your assistance and we look forward to your reply."*

## **Decision**

### **Question 1**

Monitor does not hold the information that you have requested. Monitor only holds information on the total spent by each foundation trust in England on agency staff for the financial year 2014/15. The NHS Trust Development Authority holds the financial data for NHS trusts in England for 2014/15. Monitor also does not hold the relevant data for other parts of the NHS in England (such as clinical commissioning groups), nor for the NHS in Wales.

In relation to the actual spend on agency nurses for foundation trusts, you can find the actual level of aggregate spend (across the sector) for 2014/15 here (it is available within the 'Performance of the foundation trust sector: year ended 30 June 2015' document):

Q1 2014/15: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-foundation-trusts-quarterlyperformance-report--3>

Q2 2014/15: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-foundation-trusts-quarterlyperformance-report-quarter-2-201415>

Q3 2014/15: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-foundation-trusts-quarterlyperformance-report-quarter-3-201415>

Q4 2014/15: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-foundation-trusts-quarterlyperformance-report-quarter-4-201415>

As you will see, section 3.3 of these reports on operating expenses shows the overall amount paid to "contract and agency staff" however this information is not broken down for different staff grades in 2014/15.

The actual level of agency nurse spending for each NHS foundation trust for 2014/15 can be found in their annual accounts which are normally held on trust websites. As this information is publicly available/reasonably accessible by other means according to section 21 of the FOI Act, we will not duplicate the information by releasing it.

### **Question 2**

Monitor does not hold the information that you have requested. I have explained above the information that Monitor holds and which organisations may hold information relating to parts of your request.

### **Question 3**

Monitor does not hold the information that you have requested. As discussed above, Monitor does not hold the information for Wales.

You may find it helpful to look at "*Price caps for agency staff: impact assessment*"<sup>1</sup> which sets out the range of potential overall savings estimated to arise if price caps on the rates a trust can pay for an agency worker are introduced.

The total savings presented are net savings to the NHS, taking account of potential increases in expenditure on bank and substantive staff.

### **Question 4**

Monitor does not hold the information that you have requested.

### **Review rights**

If you consider that your request for information has not been properly handled or if you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you can try to resolve this informally with the person who dealt with your request. If you remain dissatisfied, you may seek an internal review within Monitor of the issue or the decision. A senior member of Monitor's staff, who has not previously been involved with your request, will undertake that review.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of any internal review conducted by Monitor, you may complain to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the FOI Act.

A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to FOI Request Reviews, Monitor, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG or by email to [foi@monitor.gov.uk](mailto:foi@monitor.gov.uk).

### **Publication**

Please note that this letter will shortly be published on our website. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the FOI Act is disclosed to the public at large. We will, of course, remove your personal information (e.g. your name and contact details) from the version of the letter published on our website to protect your personal information from general disclosure.

Yours sincerely,



**Katharine Robinson**  
Senior Manager – Finance